

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Congressman Jeff Fortenberry today cosponsored a bill that would give Congress and the American public 72 hours to review legislation online before it is considered on the House Floor. Fortenberry today participated in a national press conference outside the United States Capitol Building, urging his colleagues in the House of Representatives to take prompt action on this measure.

“It is critically important for both the people and their representatives to have access to legislation for a minimum of three days in order to review what are often very complex bills,” said Fortenberry. “I have heard from thousands of constituents who are concerned with the rush in which Congress has passed a dizzying array of interventions, sometimes with only a few hours to review them. This must stop. The American people deserve better.”

“This is not a Democrat or Republican issue,” Fortenberry added. “This is about institutional reform of the House of Representatives for the benefit of the American people.”

In 2006, Fortenberry proposed a similar three-day requirement to the Speaker of the House as part of an ethics reform package with changes related to lobbying and House rules. In his letter, he stated, “Except in extraordinary circumstances, I believe that all Members should have at least three legislative days to review conference reports and other major legislation, such as appropriations bills, before they reach the House Floor. This would also benefit constituents who are interested in reviewing legislation before it is considered on the Floor.”

Fortenberry is a Member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

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